

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

KINGSWOOD

Urban District Council

FOR THE

YEAR 1904.

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OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
TO THE
KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
Of the Sanitary State of the District under their control,
FOR THE YEAR 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of your District during the Year 1904.

General Health.

The Health of the District during the year has been very satisfactory. There was no epidemic of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever such as occurred in the previous year. The rainfall was below the average: the health of the District did not suffer from this: and we had not the usual autumnal diarrhoea which has for years been prevalent until last year and the year before. The Birth-rate is the lowest on record. The Death-rate is the lowest on record: and the Infantile Death-rate is but slightly in excess of 1903. The Death-rate is a remarkably low one considering our proximity to the city of Bristol, whose boundary we touch for a distance of over two miles; and the working-class population composed chiefly of men engaged in the boot-trade, miners, waistcoat-makers and stay-makers. In fact the Death-rate will compare favourably with many of our noted Health resorts.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The highest position of this District being situated 360 feet above the sea level makes it necessary to have two separate systems of sewage disposal. "Kingswood proper" being situated on the highest point, the remainder which is not so thickly populated requires to be drained from the centre, sloping in different directions.

The Conham section which flows from "Kingswood proper" through Hanham to the River Avon, a distance of about a mile and a half, was commenced two years ago, and was designed for a population of 10,000. This section has just been completed, consisting of the outfall works at Conham with two detritus chambers and one septic tank divided in two, capable of holding 300,000 gallons, which afterwards flows on to four clinker beds with Stoddarts' Distributors, the effluent then flows into the River Avon which is close by.

352 houses have already been connected and some Factories. The Warmley Section, which will provide for the rest of the District, not already taken in by the Conham section. Hopewell Hill, Church Road and New Cheltenham Road have already been sewered, but Hopewell Hill is the only portion connected; this portion of the system when finished will provide for a population of at least 5,500.

An application to the Local Government Board for the sanction of a Loan of £17,500 to finish this section of the work. The result of this application has not yet been received.

A provisional order of the Local Government Board was obtained during the last session which enabled the Kingswood Urban District Council to compulsorily acquire the land required for the purposes of the Disposal Works, and everything is now in order to ensure the carrying out of the work.

Scavenging.

I have nothing fresh to state on this subject.

Food.

No sample has been taken for analysis.

Water.

During the last quarter of the year the water supplied by the West Gloucester Water Co. was at times inadequate: and I drew your attention in my report for the month of December to the necessity of our having a constant and sufficient supply. I said: "At intervals during the past three months the supply has been cut off totally from many parts of the District for hours in a day. The majority of our wells having been closed, the inconvenience and danger to the public health have been great. In some cases old wells have had to be re-opened thereby incurring grave risks: but I am pleased to be able to say no case of Enteric has occurred which may be traced to the inadequacy of the water supply." I enquired at the offices of the Company, and was informed that owing to the unusually dry season the water had reached a low level and the pumps had to be lowered: and while these alterations were being made it was impossible to maintain a constant supply. I was further informed that the work is now completed and that there will be no recurrence of the inconvenience. I trust this will be so; as it was a serious matter to

the District. I analysed a sample of the water and found it fit for drinking purposes, and free from organic impurity. At times it has been slightly discoloured, and of rather a brackish taste: but this appeared to be confined to certain portions of the district: and I suggested it may be remedied if the dead ends were flushed more frequently. The only extension of the Company's supply is at Gladstone Street, Hopewell Hill, where 36 houses have been attached to it.

I analysed in May a sample from the well at Bushes level: and I found that it was a good water for domestic purposes.

Overcrowding.

Two cases came before our notice and both were remedied without any resort to legal measures.

Factories, Bakehouses, Dairies and Slaughter-houses.

All have been visited and the work done by Mr. Waithman in connection therewith has been carried out satisfactorily.

Several complaints and a number of nuisances were reported: but the service of the formal notices produced satisfactory results in all cases: and no summons was issued.

By the end of the year two factories had been connected to the Conham section of the sewage scheme. I shall be glad when I am able to report that all of them are similarly benefited.

Mortality.

The number of deaths registered during the year from all causes was 129. Estimating the population of the entire district at 12,561, this gives a death-rate of 10.2 per 1000. This remarkably low death-rate is the lowest on our record: the nearest approach to it was in 1897 when it was 12.3. The average for the ten previous years is 14.2: and 1903 rate was 13.4. The number of deaths under 1 year was 29 giving an infantile death-rate of 90.3 per 1000 births registered—this is slightly in excess of the previous year when it was 88.5 and the average for the previous ten years is 141.5. The highest during that period was in 1894 when it was 180.7. The decline in the rate may be attributed to the enlightenment gradually spreading among our poor as to the proper rearing of their babies, and also to a great extent I think to the good work done by the Kingswood Nursing Home since its establishment.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 167 Males 154 Females, Total 321, giving a rate of 25.5 per 1000 of the population and an average of 32 per the past ten years. The birth-rate is the lowest on record. 1902 comes next with a rate of 26.8. The number of births over deaths was 192.

Zymotic Diseases requiring Notification.

The number recorded during the year was 77 and 3 deaths resulted, viz: 2 from Scarlet Fever and 1 from Puerperal Fever. Last year there were 245 cases and 18 deaths. The number this year is lower than any year since 1899.

I am pleased to state that the free Bacteriological Examination of swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria and the serum test for Enteric Fever occurring in the County of Gloucester will be a great help to Medical gentlemen to confirm their Diagnosis especially in the doubtful cases.

The Zymotic death-rate is 0.47 per 1000 of the population.

Smallpox.

We had 5 cases—none of which proved fatal. On June 18th I was called to see a patient named Costley Stone of Hill Street, Kingswood, and I found him suffering from Smallpox. Upon inquiry, I found he had slept on the 27th and 28th May in a common lodging-house in Bristol. I learned on communicating with the Medical Officer of Health of Bristol, that several cases could be traced to this lodging-house. I at once ordered the house that Stone was living in to be strictly watched. It was one of 5 in a row in a thickly populated portion of the District. There were 40 inhabitants in the row: 25 being children. The only child in the rank which was not vaccinated in infancy caught the disease. I re-vaccinated all those who were willing to be done in the vicinity of the house, and this will account in a measure for the disease not spreading to any extent. A special Council meeting was called on the 20th June and it was decided to erect as soon as possible a temporary isolation hospital, from Messrs. Humphreys of Knightsbridge. We had great difficulty in finding a suitable site for the Hospital within the District; and finally decided to erect it on the Council's own field in which there are some temporary works for the treatment of sewage. The land is low-lying and that portion of the District thinly populated, and I considered it the best site that could be procured at the time. I feared a spread of the disease if the patients remained in the thickly populated part, with no efficient means of isolation—accordingly the Hospital was erected for 6 beds; and fitted up and occupied on the 7th July; on which date 4 patients were admitted, viz: the man Stone, his wife, and the child and wife of the man next door. We removed them in our own ambulance, and all who helped were previously re-vaccinated, and every one who communicated with the patients was re-vaccinated. I engaged a nurse who had some years before contracted the disease, and was badly marked; she was not, however, re-vaccinated and contracted the disease on July 15th, and this was the last case. All the patients made a good recovery, and were allowed to return home in August.

During the outbreak the supply of food and necessities to the isolated house, and hospital, were carefully looked after by the Sanitary

Inspector ; who carried out all my suggestions in a very creditable way. It is a striking fact, which speaks volumes in favor of vaccination : that among Stone's family of children, there was but one who had not been vaccinated ; and this was the one which fell a victim to the disease. I made a special report to the Local Government Board of the subject of the outbreak on the 9th July, as follows :—

“ REPORT ON THE OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX IN THE KINGSWOOD URBAN
DISTRICT, JUNE 1904.

To The Secretary,
Local Government Board,
Whitehall, London.

Sir,

I beg to report that on the 18th June last, a man named Costley Stone, residing at Hill Street in this Urban District, developed Smallpox, and that subsequent to above date there have been three fresh cases, viz : Stone's wife and son and a woman named Brain who resided in the house next to Stone.

The circumstances of the cases are as follows :—The man Stone slept in a common lodging-house in Glo'ster Lane in the City of Bristol on or about the night of the 27th—29th May last ; on making enquiry, I learnt from Dr. Davies, M.O.H. of Bristol, that infected persons were known to have frequented this house.

Stone sickened on the 11th June last, slight rash appeared on the 15th June and diagnosis was certain on the evening of the 16th June.

His wife, Jane Stone, sickened on the 24th June, rash appeared on the 27th June.

His son William, age 11 years, sickened on the 25th June, rash appeared on the 28th June.

The woman Brain sickened on the 1st July. Rash in a mild form appeared on the 5th July. This woman had frequented Stone's house prior to its isolation.

Immediately on diagnosis being certain I took the following steps :

I. Isolated the Stone family in their own house, no hospital or other building being available, and placed sentry on it to prevent any person entering or leaving house.

II. Had disinfectants plentifully used in house and outhouses.

III. Procured woman attendant who has had the disease to wait on them.

IV. Re-vaccinated all persons, professional and otherwise, whose duties necessitated their entering the house.

V. Had all persons whom I could learn had been in contact with Stone placed under observation.

VI. Had re-vaccination notices printed and extensively circulated throughout the District.

VII. Re-vaccinated all adults who were desirous of it, and children who had not been done.

At a meeting of the Kingswood Urban District Council held on the 20th June, 1904, it was unanimously resolved that an Isolation Hospital of six beds be erected. I am pleased to state that a suitable site was procured, the Hospital has been erected and efficiently fitted up and was ready for occupation on the 7th July when I had the four patients removed to it. I am hopeful that by the adoption of the above methods the progress of the disease has been stayed.

I may add that the boy William Stone is the only one of Stone's children (who number six) who had not been vaccinated in infancy.

I beg to remain, Sir.

Your Obedient Servant,

C. J. PERROTT.

Kingswood, Near Bristol.

9th July 1904."

I sent weekly returns also to the Local Government Board as long as the cases continued.

The last outbreak was in 1894 when 8 cases occurred and no death resulted.

Cholera.

No case reported.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

11 cases reported of Diphtheria, none of which proved fatal: last year we had 49 cases and 9 deaths.

4 cases of Membranous Croup, neither of which proved fatal.

Scarlet Fever.

46 cases are recorded with 2 deaths. Last year 188 cases were reported with 9 deaths.

The disease was prevalent throughout the whole year, but the fact that only 2 deaths resulted from the 46 cases proves the mildness of the type.

Enteric Fever.

One case occurred but it did not prove fatal.

Erysipelas.

Eight cases occurred, neither of which proved fatal.

Typhus Fever.

No case reported.

Relapsing Fever.

No case reported.

Continued Fever.

No case reported.

Puerperal Fever.

Two cases occurred—one proved fatal. It is really wonderful to think that we have not had more of these cases, considering the number of patients that are attended by ignorant, and often, dirty women, who have no ideas of sanitary precautions or even cleanliness. The majority of the population being working-class and not able to afford medical attendance, depend on women to attend them.

MID-WIVES' ACT 1902.

The above Act comes into force next year when no woman who is not registered will be allowed to practise as a mid-wife. In future the mid-wives will be under medical supervision. I consider the Act will be a great boon to a population such as ours. The poor women in the past who could not afford to pay a medical gentleman to attend them had no alternative but to employ the ignorant and often dirty women, as before mentioned in my remarks on Puerperal Fever, to the immediate risk of their lives : and still more frequently to the injury of their health in the future. We are extremely fortunate in this District in having a supply of trained and qualified mid-wives at the District Nursing Home, who attend poor women at the lowest possible fee. It is a source of astonishment to me that our record of deaths in the puerperal state has been so low. Under the new Act mid-wives will be required to keep a record of all cases attended, and they will be inspected as to the cleanliness of the contents of the bag they use etc., etc.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOT REQUIRING NOTIFICATION.**Measles.**

This disease caused only one death. We seldom get a year in which we enjoy such an immunity from this disease. Most of the cases occurred in the last quarter of the year.

Whooping Cough.

This disease caused one death, that of a child under 1 year.

Chicken Pox.

Several cases of this disease appeared in May and were of a rather severe type.

Influenza.

No death is reported from this disease, although there has been a number of cases throughout the year.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

Two deaths are reported, both infants under 1 year: the same as reported for last year. We had no autumnal diarrhoea, which often increases the infantile mortality considerably.

Rheumatic Fever.

No death reported from this disease.

Phthisis.

12 deaths occurred from this disease, all over 5 years of age, and 7 of them were between the ages of 25 and 65 years.

Cancer.

3 deaths—all over 25 years. 10 were recorded last year.

Bronchitis.

There were 9 deaths, 5 of which were persons over 65 years of age.

Pneumonia.

16 deaths were caused by this disease, 10 of which were between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Several of these cases were associated with bronchitis.

Pleurisy.

No death is recorded from this disease.

Cardiac Diseases.

15 deaths resulted from these, 14 of which were persons over 25 years of age.

Apoplexy.

This disease caused 12 deaths.

Meningitis.

Four deaths resulted from this disease.

Nephritis.

This disease caused 4 deaths.

Ankylostomiasis.

In April I received a letter from the County Council drawing attention to the cause and spread of a disease known as Ankylostomiasis Duodenale commonly known as Miners' worm: we having one pit in our District, and many miners who work at the Kingswood Colliery in the City of Bristol: and I being Medical Officer to the Colliery, I have never seen a case of this disease during the 19 years I have resided in the District nor have I heard of any adjacent district where there are collieries to have had a case of it. I made enquiries at the pit in my district and found that latrines are provided on the surface of the pit only.

Isolation Hospital.

Nothing was done in this matter until the outbreak of Small-pox in the District in June, when it was decided to erect a temporary Isolation Hospital for the Small-pox cases.

The following are its contents :—

1 Ward containing 6 beds, of which 2 were partitioned off for male occupants.

Matron's room.

Kitchen.

Bathroom.

Scullery.

Store-room.

Earth Closets, etc.

As to providing a general isolation hospital: nothing has been done further than one meeting held to discuss the matter. There is still a probability of having a joint Hospital with the Warmley Rural District.

New School.

A new school capable of accommodating 1000 children is in course of erection, and will I hope be opened in the spring of next year.

I append tabulated statements—I., II., III., IV. of statistics.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. J. PERROTT.

February 8th, 1905.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT,
During 1904 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED.			
		Number	Rate.	UNDER 1 YEAR.		AT ALL AGES.	
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
1894	10,600	393	37	71	180·7	173	16·3
1895	10,800	368	34	56	152·1	156	14·4
1896	11,000	359	32·6	58	161·5	176	16·
1897	11,200	343	30·6	48	145·7	138	12·3
1898	11,400	375	32·9	50	133·3	150	13·1
1899	11,600	378	32·5	56	148·1	168	14·4
1900	11,800	388	32·8	50	128·8	181	15·3
1901	11,961	367	30·6	52	141·7	154	12·8
1902	12,161	326	26·8	46	141·1	176	14·4
1903	12,361	384	31	34	88·5	166	13·4
Averages for Years 1894-1903	11,488	368·1	32	52·1	141·5	163·8	14·2
1904	12,561	321	25·5	29	90·3	129	10·2

Area of District in Acres. }	1,555	Total Population at all ages	...	...	12,561
		Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	2,561
		Average Number of persons per house	...	...	4·9

TABLE II.

YEAR.	Population estim'd to m'dle of each year.	Births Registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
	A	B	C	D.
1894	10,600	393	173	71
1895	10,800	368	156	56
1896	11,000	359	176	58
1897	11,200	343	138	48
1898	11,400	375	150	50
1899	11,600	378	168	56
1900	11,800	388	181	50
1901	11,961	367	154	52
1902	12,161	326	176	46
1903	12,361	384	166	34
Averages for Years 1894-1903	11,488	368.1	163.8	52.1
1904	12,561	321	129	29

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At All Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds
Smallpox ...	5	...	...	1	...	4	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	11	...	2	8	1	...	...
Membranous Croup	4	...	2	2	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	8	1	...	1	1	5	...
Scarlet Fever ...	46	1	8	34	3	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	77	2	12	46	7	10	...

Isolation Hospital only for Smallpox.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES.	Deaths in whole District at Subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	12	...	...	1	4	7	...
Other Tubercular Diseases }	7	3	...	...	...	4	...
Cancer ...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis ...	9	3	1	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia ...	16	2	10	1	1	2	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver }	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Veneral Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births ...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition }	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Diseases ...	15	...	...	1	...	7	7
Accidents ...	3	...	1	...	...	2	...
Apoplexy ...	12	...	...	...	...	4	8
Nephritis ...	4	...	...	...	1	1	2
Menigitis ...	4	...	3	...	...	1	...
All Other Causes ...	19	3	...	2	...	5	9
All Causes ...	129	29	18	6	6	38	32

KINGSWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

As the report of your Medical Officer covers almost entirely the work done in my department during 1904, including the classified summary which I presented to you last year, I can only supplement the particulars contained in that report, with the following few remarks:—

It is very satisfactory to note that the number of infectious cases notified in 1904 was only 77, as against 247 in 1903, a reduction of nearly 70 per cent.

The "*Importation*" of Smallpox into the district in June was most unfortunate, 5 cases were notified, and the total cost incurred in connection with the outbreak amounts to £476 2s. 8d., including of course the temporary Isolation Hospital which will accommodate 8 patients, and which was erected by Messrs. Humphries of Knightsbridge within 14 days of the outbreak, and which was undoubtedly the means of checking the spread of the disease.

The "House" Connections to the Conham Section of the Sewerage Scheme, commenced in July last, and as a result many long standing nuisances have been effectually abated.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

CHAS. H. WAITHMAN, A.R.S.I.

